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U.S. Rushing Missiles to Pakistan; Cites Air Raids From Afghanistan

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WASHINGTON, July 11 — The United States said today that it was rushing to Pakistan 100 portable anti-aircraft missiles and new air-to-air missiles to help it defend against increasing air incursions from Afghanistan flown by either Soviet or Afghan pilots.

The decision to send the portable missiles, known as Stingers, was made even though many in Congress are wary about the sale of such weapons abroad. Designed to be fired by a person cradling the launcher on one shoulder, the Stingers are regarded as ideal weapons for terrorists seeking to down airliners.

Plans by the Administration to provide Jordan with Stingers have been repeatedly delayed because of Congressional opposition. But last year President Reagan authorized the sale of Stingers to Saudi Arabia on an emergency basis, in response to threats to Saudi oilfields from Iran. By invoking an emergency, Mr. Reagan was able to avoid Congressional scrutiny.

The Indian Government has repeatedly expressed to Washington its unhappiness over the sale of advanced military equipment to Pakistan, arguing that such weapons were being sought by Pakistan not so much to defend against attacks from Afghanistan, but to prepare for possible conflict with India.

An Indian Embassy spokesman said today, "The American arms supply to Pakistan is a matter of concern to India, and if arms are being expedited, then it is of all the more concern."

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To avoid having to submit the Pakistan sale to Congress, the State Department limited the amount to \$8.5 million. By law, only sales above \$14 million need be sent to Congress for its scrutiny.

Under current legislation such projected sales are sent to Congress for 30 days, after which they are automatically approved unless both houses of Congress vote against them. A recent Supreme Court decision has raised questions about such Congressional vetoes, but the ability of Congress to

block arms sales has not been challenged yet by the Administration.

In the last year, there have been nearly 100 attacks on Pakistan by Soviet-built aircraft based in Afghanistan, State Department officials said. None of the planes have been shot down, and officials are not certain whether they are Soviet Air Force planes or Afghan planes since both come from the same bases. The attacks seem to have been in response to Pakistani assistance to Afghan rebels operating out of base camps in Pakistan.

The United States has sent Pakistan about 40 F-16 fighters. Until now, they have been armed with older-model Sidewinder missiles, which are effective if fired from behind the target plane.

The State Department said today that Mr. Reagan had authorized speeding up the delivery of previously ordered advanced Sidewinders, which can be fired from the front of a target plane as well as from the rear.

Robert M. Smalley, a State Department spokesman, said today: "In response to repeated violations of Pakistan's airspace and territory by Communist aircraft operating from bases in Afghanistan, the President has approved an expedited delivery to Pakistan of Sidewinder air-to-air missiles

previously on order as well as a number of basic Stinger ground-to-air missiles and technical assistance aimed at shoring up Pakistan's ability to detect and deal with these air threats.

"As you are aware, these violations have led to numerous deaths among civilians in Pakistan and to the destruction of property. We have deplored these attacks and call upon the Soviet Union again to halt these attacks."

State Department officials said a small American team would be sent to Pakistan to train its forces in the new equipment.

Last year Pakistan expressed an interest in buying the EC-2 radar surveillance plane, but that deal has not gone through. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan of Pakistan will be in Washington next week for talks with American officials.

The Pakistanis receive about \$626 million annually in American aid, of which \$325 million is in military credits. Congress has tried to bar aid to Pakistan because of repeated indications that it was secretly trying to develop a nuclear explosive device to match India's capability.

Today, ABC News reported that Pakistan had obtained American-made electronic triggers, known as krytrons, and had successfully carried out tests of them in nonnuclear explosions.

The State Department declined to comment on the report.

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